

DEBT SERVICE**7701: DEBT & INTEREST**

	FY 03 Actual	FY 04 Budget	FY 04 Actual	FY 05 Budget	FY 06 Proposed	Change FY 05 - 06	Percent Change
Principal	1,436,536	1,301,241	1,279,867	1,464,624	1,374,201	(90,423)	-6.2%
Interest	600,242	597,634	642,763	499,291	771,809	272,518	54.6%
Deferred Payments	56,514	56,514	56,514	56,514	56,514	0	0.0%
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	2,093,292	1,955,389	1,979,143	2,020,429	2,202,524	182,095	9.0%
SOURCES OF FUNDS							
Taxation	2,093,292	1,955,389	1,979,143	2,020,429	2,158,858	138,429	6.9%
CPAC Funds	0	0	0	0	43,666	43,666	--

MAJOR COMPONENTS:

	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Deferred Payments</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Town Hall	160,000	95,680		255,680
Agricultural Pres. Rest.	8,356	933		9,289
Police Facility	310,919	26,541		337,460
Jones Library	56,330	13,366		69,696
Bangs Community Center	41,053	4,074		45,127
* Regional High School Debt	327,168	127,232		454,400
Crocker Farm Renovation	200,000	86,250		286,250
Crocker Farm Temporary Debt		123,863		123,863
Sidewalks	66,000	1,474		67,474
Wildwood Roof	65,000	13,960		78,960
Street Lights	35,000	1,365		36,365
Close Cell 3	104,375	3,563		108,028
Soccer Fields Temporary Debt		70,200		70,200
Sidewalks Temporary Debt		81,184		81,184
Regional High School Roof Temporary Debt		102,034		102,034
Interest on Temporary Debt		20,000		20,000
Deferred Teachers Payroll			56,514	56,514
TOTAL	<u>\$1,374,201</u>	<u>\$771,809</u>	<u>\$56,514</u>	<u>\$2,202,524</u>

* Debt funded through Proposition 2 ½ overrides

SIGNIFICANT BUDGET CHANGES:

New short-term bonds issued/to be issued for Regional High School roof, downtown sidewalks, and Plum Brook soccer fields. Crocker Farm short-term bonds mature July 2005. Awaiting decision on amount of preliminary (pre-project audit) lump sum reimbursement distribution by new Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) to retire portion of debt at maturity. Debt service funded via Proposition 2 ½ override (debt exclusion) declines by \$101,153 as Middle School roof debt paid off in FY 05 and High School renovation/expansion debt declines in FY 06.

SERVICE LEVELS:

	<u>FY 00 Actual</u>	<u>FY 01 Actual</u>	<u>FY 02 Actual</u>	<u>FY 03 Actual</u>	<u>FY 04 Actual</u>
Number of Issues					
School Debt	4	5	5	6	4
Town Debt	4	5	5	6	8
Library Debt	1	1	1	1	1

GENERAL FUND**OTHER GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES**

MISSION: To provided funding and/or services for purposes which have not been recognized as being a routine part of Town operations and, therefore, have not been incorporated in the operating budget.

CONTINUING OBJECTIVES:

To provide pass-through funding for programs.

LONG RANGE OBJECTIVES:**FY 06 OBJECTIVES:**

To fund transportation subsidies for outreach routes via a direct appropriation rather than from the PVTa assessment.

SERVICE LEVELS:

	FY 00 <u>Actual</u>	FY 01 <u>Actual</u>	FY 02 <u>Actual</u>	FY 03 <u>Actual</u>	FY 04 <u>Actual</u>
Housing Units Managed	2	2	2	2	2
Amherst Cable Television	1	1	1	1	1
Arts Groups Benefited	50	58	79	33	39
Reserve Fund Transfers	5	2	1	1	6

GENERAL FUND**OTHER GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES**

		FY 03 Actual	FY 04 Budget	FY 04 Actual	FY 05 Budget	FY 06 Proposed	Change FY 05 - 06	Percent Change
Congregate Housing	\$	19,712	5,000	5,308	5,000	0	(5,000)	-100.0%
Arts Lottery	\$	14,882	40,000	14,070	15,000	15,000	0	0.0%
Amherst Cable Television	\$	3,676	4,000	3,833	4,000	4,000	0	0.0%
Reserve Fund	\$	85,000	200,000	150,724	100,000	100,000	0	0.0%
Transportation Subsidies – Outreach Routes	\$	0	0	0	0	83,000	83,000	--
Transportation Subsidies– Seniors	\$	0	0	0	0	12,000	12,000	--
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$	123,270	249,000	173,935	124,000	214,000	(5,000)	-5.1%
SOURCES OF FUNDS								
Taxation	\$	85,000	172,000	150,724	100,000	195,000	95,000	95.0%
Grants	\$	34,594	73,000	19,378	20,000	15,000	(5,000)	-25.0%
Fee Supported	\$	3,676	4,000	3,833	4,000	4,000	0	0.0%

MAJOR COMPONENTS:

See above.

SIGNIFICANT BUDGET CHANGES AND UNFUNDED NEEDS:

Congregate housing grant no longer available. \$4,000 is recommended to be appropriated from franchise fee revenues (expected to be received by Town in April 2006) for use by the Cable Advisory Committee to enforce the provisions of the license agreement between the Town and Comcast, and for Amherst Community Television if unused or uncommitted by the Cable Advisory Committee for enforcement purposes by March 1, 2007. This is the contractual process that was clarified prior to the November 2004 Special Town Meeting. Transportation subsidies for outreach routes to Belchertown Road/Bay Road via a direct contract between Town and UMass Transit are estimated at \$83,000. Transportation subsidies for seniors for PVTA and van service totaling \$12,000 would replenish funds from a special article funded at the 2003 Annual Town Meeting.

Unfunded Needs: An additional \$7,200 would increase subsidies for Transportation outreach routes.

GENERAL FUND**OTHER GOVERNMENT ASSESSMENTS**

MISSION: To pay for charges assessed by other governmental entities.

CONTINUING OBJECTIVES:

To evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of services provided to the Town by other agencies.

To participate in management of transportation services and retirement benefits through membership on the governing boards of the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority and the Hampshire Regional Retirement Board.

LONG RANGE OBJECTIVES:**FY 06 OBJECTIVES:****SERVICE LEVELS:**

	<u>FY 00</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>FY 01</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>FY 02</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>FY 03</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>FY 04</u> <u>Actual</u>
Number of Programs:					
State	3	3	3	3	3
County	1	0	0	0	0
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission	1	1	1	1	1
Hampshire County Retirement System	1	1	1	1	1
Hampshire Council of Governments	0	1	1	1	0

GENERAL FUND**OTHER GOVERNMENT ASSESSMENTS**

		FY 03 Actual	FY 04 Budget	FY 04 Actual	FY 05 Budget	FY 06 Proposed	Change FY 05 - 06	Percent Change
State Assessments	\$	40,822	56,966	66,482	57,464	58,901	1,437	2.5%
County Assessments	\$		0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Council of Governments	\$	100,958	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
PVPC	\$	5,300	5,231	5,231	5,300	5,300	0	0.0%
PVTA	\$	832,756	820,027	772,290	820,000	806,832	(13,168)	-1.6%
Retirement Assessment	\$	1,948,408	2,080,289	2,080,289	2,192,879	2,492,946	300,067	13.7%
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$	2,928,244	2,962,513	2,924,292	3,075,643	3,363,979	288,336	9.4%
SOURCES OF FUNDS								
Taxation	\$	2,348,176	2,296,117	2,263,423	2,411,812	2,742,916	331,104	13.7%
UMass/Five Colleges	\$	580,068	666,396	660,869	663,831	621,063	(42,768)	-6.4%

MAJOR COMPONENTS:

State Assessments include fees payable to the Registry of Motor Vehicles that the Town collected for the Registry and the assessment due as a member of the Air Pollution Control District. Another state assessment, retired teacher's health insurance (\$289,583 in FY 05), is shown in the elementary school budget.

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) provides regional planning services in the Pioneer Valley. The amount budgeted is the assessment to the Town for membership.

The Retirement Assessment covers general fund municipal and library employees as well as non-teaching school employees.

SIGNIFICANT BUDGET CHANGES:

Hampshire County Retirement Assessment increases by 13.7%, or \$300,067, to total of \$2,492,946 for Town, Library, and non-teaching School employees. In addition, Enterprise Funds share of this assessment is budgeted in their respective budgets. Actuarial updates to the funding schedule represent an increase of 9%. The remainder of the increase, \$234,924, is to begin to fund the liability created by the Early Retirement Incentive program adopted by the Town in 2003. The PVTA assessment estimate represents a 2.5% increase above the actual assessment in FY 05 for FY 04 service. Transportation subsidies for outreach routes will not be funded via the PVTA assessment in FY 06, but by direct appropriation. See Other Government Expenditures.

CAPITAL PROGRAM

SUMMARY

MISSION: To manage a program of equipment and facility maintenance and improvement that ensures protection of the Town's capital assets and the continued delivery of quality services.

CONTINUING OBJECTIVES:

To provide comprehensive Town – wide capital planning.
 To develop, manage and modify an ongoing five- year Capital Plan.
 To maintain adequate maintenance and inventory records to facilitate capital planning.
 To evaluate and manage an appropriate mix of funding sources for capital projects.
 To develop and review policies related to funding, replacement, improvement and expansion of capital assets.

LONG RANGE OBJECTIVES:

To develop a comprehensive inventory of capital assets.
 To implement an appropriate software program for management of asset maintenance and inventory control.

FY 06 OBJECTIVES:

To review and modify the existing five-year Capital Plan as necessary.
 To review and evaluate the balance between capital and operating spending needs for FY 06.
 To work more closely with the Community Preservation Act Committee to coordinate capital recommendations for the Annual Town Meeting.

SERVICE LEVELS:

	<u>FY 00 Actual</u>	<u>FY 01 Actual</u>	<u>FY 02 Actual</u>	<u>FY 03 Actual</u>	<u>FY 04 Actual</u>
Number of Projects:					
Department Equipment	16	19	13	20	22
Facilities	26	19	21	10	20
Joint Capital Planning Committee Meetings	16	16	15	17	17

CAPITAL PROGRAM**SUMMARY**

	FY 03 Actual	FY 04 Budget	FY 04 Actual	FY 05 Budget	FY 06 Proposed	Change FY 05 - 06	Percent Change
Departmental Equipment	1,103,000	1,150,800	1,150,800	944,400	1,027,400	83,000	8.8%
Buildings	224,500	219,600	219,600	243,000	3,013,500	2,770,500	1140.1%
Facilities	362,000	490,000	490,000	1,030,000	415,000	(615,000)	-59.7%
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	1,689,500	1,860,400	1,860,400	2,217,400	4,455,900	2,238,500	101.0%
SOURCES OF FUNDS							
Grants	185,000	573,000	573,000	400,000	685,000	285,000	71.3%
Borrowing Authorization	0	0	0	600,000	2,285,000	1,685,000	0.0%
Stabilization Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Available Funds	140,000	165,800	165,800	130,000	222,000	92,000	70.8%
Taxation	1,364,500	1,121,600	1,121,600	1,087,400	1,263,900	176,500	16.2%

MAJOR COMPONENTS:

See detail on subsequent pages.

NOTE: The Joint Capital Planning Committee will be reviewing new and/or revised capital requests from departments and updating its recommendations for FY 06 and subsequent years prior to the Annual Town Meeting.

CAPITAL PROGRAM

DEPARTMENTAL EQUIPMENT

MISSION STATEMENT: To manage an equipment purchase and replacement program that facilitates the safe, timely delivery of Town services.

CONTINUING OBJECTIVES

To monitor vehicle maintenance costs and safety records to assist with replacement evaluation.
 To develop and modify vehicle and equipment replacement schedules so that the continuity of adequate, expected services is assured.
 To continuously evaluate alternative replacement financing alternatives.
 To review and evaluate new technologies that support staff providing services through operating budgets.
 To purchase new, additional equipment when operational efficiencies or safety considerations require such purchases.
 To continuously refine and improve the capital planning process

LONG RANGE OBJECTIVES

To annually evaluate and modify the currently operative five-year plan.
 To improve recording of maintenance data to facilitate decision making about equipment and vehicle replacements.

FY 06 OBJECTIVES AND SIGNIFICANT PROGRAM CHANGES:

To replace existing equipment essential to the delivery of services at current levels.

SERVICE LEVELS:

	<u>FY 00</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>FY 01</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>FY 02</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>FY 03</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>FY 04</u> <u>Actual</u>
General Government	3	4	2	3	3
Police	4	5	5	7	1
Fire	2	6	2	1	4
Emergency Medical Services	2	3	1	1	2
Communications	0	0	0	0	0
Highways and Streets	2	3	2	5	2
Conservation	0	0	1	2	0
Parks	1	0	0	2	1
Council on Aging	0	0	0	0	1
Schools	3	0	3	6	7
Libraries	2	1	1	3	1

CAPITAL PROGRAM**DEPARTMENTAL EQUIPMENT**

	FY 03 Actual	FY 04 Budget	FY 04 Actual	FY 05 Budget	FY 06 Proposed	Change FY 05 - 06	Percent Change
General Government	96,000	150,500	150,500	131,000	197,000	66,000	50.4%
Public Safety	537,000	519,800	519,800	251,000	145,000	(106,000)	-42.2%
Public Works	200,000	180,000	180,000	209,000	317,000	108,000	51.7%
Planning/Conservation/ Inspections	20,000	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Community Services		5,000	5,000	0	0	0	0.0%
Schools	240,000	286,000	286,000	278,400	343,400	65,000	23.3%
Library	10,000	9,500	9,500	75,000	25,000	(50,000)	-66.7%
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	1,103,000	1,150,800	1,150,800	944,400	1,027,400	83,000	8.8%
SOURCES OF FUNDS							
Grants	120,000	173,000	173,000	0	285,000	285,000	--
Stabilization	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Other Available Funds	140,000	165,800	165,800	130,000	22,000	(108,000)	-83.1%
Borrowing Authorization	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Taxation	843,000	812,000	812,000	814,400	720,400	(94,000)	-11.5%

MAJOR COMPONENTS:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT	Computers & Office Equipment	192,000
	Used Pickup Truck	5,000
PUBLIC SAFETY	Cruisers	120,000
	Fire Vehicle	25,000
PUBLIC WORKS	Backhoe/Front End Loader	95,000
	Riding mower	12,000
	Road Sweeper	190,000
	Two Ton Roller	20,000
SCHOOLS	Buses	60,000
	Special Education Vans	29,000
	Pickup Truck	24,000
	Backup Generators	40,000
	Computers & Office Equipment	190,400
LIBRARIES	Computers	25,000

CAPITAL PROGRAM

BUILDINGS

MISSION STATEMENT: To manage an effective building construction, improvement and maintenance program which ensures the safe and efficient delivery of services and protects the investment the Town has made in physical assets.

CONTINUING OBJECTIVES

To maintain buildings in a timely manner to ensure the health and safety of building users.

To continuously evaluate adequacy and effectiveness of building systems and to replace and repair those systems when necessary.

To continuously evaluate alternative replacement financing alternatives.

To continuously refine and improve the capital planning process for new construction, building expansions, improvements and repairs.

LONG RANGE OBJECTIVES

To annually evaluate and modify the currently operative five-year plan.

To improve recording of maintenance data to facilitate decision making about buildings.

To continue to modify buildings to bring them in compliance with the requirements of the Americans With Disabilities Act.

To continue to evaluate the need for a new Teen Center.

To evaluate the need for and develop a plan for a new fire station in the southern part of the Town.

To refine improvement plans and cost estimates for the Fort River and Wildwood elementary schools.

FY 06 OBJECTIVES AND SIGNIFICANT PROGRAM CHANGES:

To continue to invest in an effective building construction, improvement and maintenance program.

SERVICE LEVELS:

	<u>FY 00</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>FY 01</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>FY 02</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>FY 03</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>FY 04</u> <u>Actual</u>
General Government	1	0	3	0	4
Police	2	1	1	1	1
Fire	0	2	2	0	0
Public Works Facilities	1	1	1	0	1
Conservation	0	0	0	0	0
Parks	1	0	0	0	0
Schools	9	1	2	1	3
Libraries	2	1	0	2	2

CAPITAL PROGRAM**BUILDINGS**

	FY 03 Actual	FY 04 Budget	FY 04 Actual	FY 05 Budget	FY 06 Proposed	Change FY 05 - 06	Percent Change
General Government	180,000	68,500	68,500	32,500	384,000	351,500	1081.5%
Public Safety	35,000	35,000	35,000	30,000	218,000	188,000	626.7%
Public Works		5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	0	0.0%
Planning/Conservation/ Inspections	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Community Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Schools	0	95,000	95,000	126,000	2,370,000	2,244,000	1781.0%
Libraries	9,500	16,100	16,100	49,500	36,500	(13,000)	-26.3%
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	224,500	219,600	219,600	243,000	3,013,500	2,770,500	1140.1%
SOURCES OF FUNDS							
Grants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Borrowing Authorization	0	0	0	0	2,285,000	2,285,000	--
Stabilization	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Taxation	224,500	219,600	219,600	243,000	528,500	285,500	117.5%
Other Available Funds	0	0	0	0	200,000	200,000	--

MAJOR COMPONENTS:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT	Resurface Parking Lot at Town Hall	35,000
	Exterior Maintenance at Town Hall	250,000
	Interior Maintenance at Town Hall	25,000
	Exterior Maintenance at North Amherst School	17,500
	Interior Maintenance at North Amherst School	19,000
	Exterior Maintenance at Child Care Facility	7,500
	Repairs at North Amherst Library	30,000
PUBLIC SAFETY	Design/Construction New Fire Facility	200,000
	HVAC at Police Facility	18,000
PUBLIC WORKS	Building improvements	5,000
SCHOOLS	Asbestos removal	10,000
	Fort River Renovations	75,000
	Repave Lot at Wildwood	35,000
	Wildwood Renovations	2,250,000
LIBRARIES	Roof repairs	16,500
	Window Replacement	10,000
	HVAC Improvements	10,000

CAPITAL PROGRAM

FACILITIES

MISSION STATEMENT: To manage an effective facility construction, improvement and maintenance program which ensures the safe and efficient delivery of services.

CONTINUING OBJECTIVES:

To continuously evaluate the need for new or expanded facilities to meet community needs.
 To continue to manage the road and intersection improvement program using state and federal resources whenever possible.
 To make necessary repairs and improvements to parks and recreation facilities.

LONG RANGE OBJECTIVES:

To continue to modify facilities to bring them in compliance with the requirements of the Americans With Disabilities Act.
 To continue the APR / Open Space Acquisition program.
 To develop a sidewalk expansion program.

FY 06 OBJECTIVES:

To continue to work with the Community Preservation Act Committee to develop a long-range program for allocation of Community Preservation Act funds.
 To continue a roadway maintenance and improvement program.

SERVICE LEVELS:

	<u>FY 00</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>FY 01</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>FY 02</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>FY 03</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>FY 04</u> <u>Actual</u>
Primary Road Resurfacing (miles)	0	.5	0	5.6	7.9
Other road, intersection projects	3	1	1	0	1
Curbing Replacement (linear feet)	0	0	200	0	1,892
Sidewalk Maintenance (linear feet)	5,110	4,165	2,000	0	N/A
Conservation Area Improvements (# of projects)	0	1	1	1	N/A
Parks, Commons and Recreation Area Renovations (# of sites)	2	2	1	3	0
Farm Land Development Rights (# of acres)	0	0	0	0	N/A
Land acquisition (# of acres)		75.15	0	0	N/A
Cemetery improvement projects	1	0	0	0	N/A

CAPITAL PROGRAM**FACILITIES**

	FY 03 Actual	FY 04 Budget	FY 04 Actual	FY 05 Budget	FY 06 Proposed	Change FY 05 - 06	Percent Change
General Government	50,000	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Public Safety	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Public Works	65,000	465,000	465,000	410,000	400,000	(10,000)	-2.4%
Planning/Conservation/ Inspections	22,000	25,000	25,000	620,000	15,000	(605,000)	-97.6%
Community Services	125,000	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Schools	100,000	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Libraries		0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	362,000	490,000	490,000	1,030,000	415,000	(615,000)	-59.7%
SOURCES OF FUNDS							
Grants	65,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	0	0.0%
Borrowing Authorization	0	0	0	600,000	0	(600,000)	-100.0%
Stabilization	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Taxation	297,000	90,000	90,000	30,000	15,000	(15,000)	-50.0%
Other Available Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%

MAJOR COMPONENTS:

PUBLIC WORKS	Road Resurfacing	400,000
CONSERVATION	Paving Parking Lots	15,000

CAPITAL PROGRAM**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION PROGRAM**

MISSION STATEMENT: To manage the Community Preservation Program in accordance with the guidelines established by Community Preservation Act legislation.

CONTINUING OBJECTIVES:

To ensure that Community Preservation funds are allocated to Open Space, Historic Preservation, Affordable Housing and Recreation in accordance with guidelines contained in the Act.

To continuously evaluate requests for funding for projects and activities that fulfill Act requirements.

To work with the Joint Capital Planning Committee to coordinate Community Preservation Act spending with the Town's five-year Capital Plan.

To develop and modify policies and long-range plans for use of Community Preservation Act funding.

LONG RANGE OBJECTIVES:

To develop a long term spending plan for use of Community Preservation Act funds.

To improve and institutionalize the evaluation process.

FY 06 OBJECTIVES:

To allocate at least 10% of available funding to open space, historic preservation and affordable housing.

To review and evaluate requests for funding.

SERVICE LEVELS:

	<u>FY 00</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>FY 01</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>FY 02</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>FY 03</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>FY 04</u> <u>Actual</u>
Open Space Projects					
Agricultural Restrictions				1	1
Open Space Acquisitions				1	0
Affordable Housing				2	1
Historic Preservation				1	2
Recreation				1	1

CAPITAL PROGRAM**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION PROGRAM**

		FY 03 Actual	FY 04 Budget	FY 04 Actual	FY 05 Budget	FY 06 Proposed	Change FY 05 - 06	Percent Change
Open Space	\$	93,000	139,000	139,000	95,000	100,000	5,000	5.3%
Historic Preservation	\$	20,000	59,065	59,065	0	69,400	69,400	--
Affordable Housing	\$	130,000	133,550	133,550	50,000	0	(50,000)	-100.0%
Recreation	\$	500,000	15,000	15,000	0	0	0	0.0%
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$	743,000	346,615	346,615	145,000	169,400	24,400	16.8%
SOURCES OF FUNDS								
CPA Tax Surcharge	\$	269,209	280,105	280,105	72,500	84,700	12,200	16.8%
State Trust Fund	\$	125,258	144,081	144,081	72,500	84,700	12,200	16.8%
Borrowing	\$	500,000	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%

MAJOR COMPONENTS:

OPEN SPACE	TBD	50,000
	APR TBD	50,000
HISTORIC PRESERVATION	West Cemetery Improvements	69,400

NOTE: The Community Preservation Act Committee will update its recommendations for FY 06 prior to the Annual Town Meeting.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

In 2002, Amherst voters accepted the provisions of Chapter 44B of Massachusetts General Laws, the Community Preservation Act. This legislation allows for the assessment of a surcharge on property taxes, the revenue from which can only be used for conservation, affordable housing, historical preservation and recreation. While the legislation allows a surcharge of up to 3%, voters in Amherst approved a 1% surcharge. By accepting the Act, the Town is eligible, each year, for matching funds of up to 100% from a state trust fund established for the purposes specified in the Act.

One of the requirements of the Act is that at least 10% of each year's funding from all sources (surcharge, state match and interest earned on investments) must be spent or set aside for conservation, affordable housing and historic preservation. There is not a 10% requirement for recreation. If those funds are not spent in a year they are transferred to a Designated Fund Balance for that purpose.

PROGRAM SUMMARY:

To date the Town has raised approximately \$414,000 from the tax surcharge and received \$269,339 from the state trust fund. Expenditures from the Fund include \$232,000 for open space and agricultural preservation restrictions, \$79,000 for historical preservation projects, \$255,550 for affordable housing projects and \$15,000 for recreation. Additionally, \$500,000 of debt financing for athletic fields has been authorized with two-thirds of the principal and interest payments on that debt to be paid from Community Preservation funds.